from media, travel writers, tour operators, high dignitaries and senior officials to travel on this train. The number of passengers is under verification from the RTDC by the CBI.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The matter is under investigation of the CBI.

Conversion of Kanpur-Kasganj M.G. Line

703. DR. SWAMI SAKSHI JI MAHARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether conversion of Kanpur-Kasganj MG rail line into BG rail line was planned to be completed long back;

(b) if so, the progress made so far;

(c) the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite the conversion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No target has yet been fixed.

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However, work is planned to be taken up and completed in phases. Earthwork and minor bridges are in progress. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources.

Shortage of Coaches and Wagons

†704. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of coaches and wagons in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of coaches and wagons being manufactured every year in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Number of coaches and wagons manufactured duri g last 5 years are as under:—

Year	Coaches	Wagons(FWs)
1996-97	2168	22185
1997-98	2278	27865
1998-99	2466	25235
1999-2000	2453	16462.5
2000-2001	2256	17753

Khanna Committee Report on Railway Safety

705. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the delay in implementing the Khanna Committee Report on Railway Safety;

(b) what is the plan of action for repairing or reconstructing a century old railway bridges; and

(c) what are the financial implications involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Action to implement accepted recommendations of Part-I of the Report of Railway Safety Review Committee-98 (Khanna Committee) has already been initiated. In order to implement one of the recommendations of Khanna Committee Report, a non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs.17,000 Crores has been set up to wipe out arrears in renewal of over-aged assets within a fixed time frame of 6 years. Over-aged assets that are to be renewed also include Bridges.

Besides these, there are number of other recommendations having financial repercussions. These are being implemented progressively depending upon availability of funds and resources.

Status of technical staff in Railways

706. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that technical staff in the Railways is being completely neglected;